
HOUSE BILL 1718

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Walen, Wicks, Berg, Fitzgibbon, Bateman, Goodman, Macri, Peterson, Ramel, Orwall, Slatter, and Pollet

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1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting activities related to the
2 production and manufacturing of fur products; amending RCW 16.72.010;
3 adding new sections to chapter 16.72 RCW; creating a new section;
4 repealing RCW 16.72.020, 16.72.030, and 16.72.040; prescribing
5 penalties; providing an effective date; and providing expiration
6 dates.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the demand
9 for products made of animal fur has been in decline and that the fur
10 industry represents a very small portion of Washington's economy. For
11 example, according to the United States department of agriculture,
12 mink pelt production decreased 15 percent from 2018 to 2019, and the
13 value of mink pelts produced decreased 30 percent in the same time
14 frame. In Washington, mink pelt production accounted for only 1.4
15 percent of total production in the United States in 2018, decreasing
16 to less than one percent in 2019.

17 (2) The legislature finds that there are growing concerns for the
18 welfare of the animals used in fur farming. For instance, there are
19 no federal or state humane slaughter laws that regulate the industry.
20 In addition, there are significant concerns related to the
21 environmental impact of fur farming. For these and other reasons, the

1 legislature finds that it is in the public interest to end fur
2 trading and farming.

3 (3) Recognizing the harmful impacts on animals and the
4 environment, the legislature intends to end fur farming, to provide
5 assistance to existing farmers transitioning to other types of
6 farming or livelihood, and to end the production and manufacture of
7 fur products in Washington by 2023.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 16.72.010 and 1955 c 321 s 2 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 ~~((As used in this chapter:~~

11 ~~"Director" means director of agriculture.~~

12 ~~"Department" means department of agriculture.))~~

13 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
14 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

15 (1) "Fur" means any animal skin or part thereof with hair,
16 fleece, or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or
17 processed state.

18 (2) "Fur farming" means breeding, raising, and rearing of mink,
19 marten, fox, and chinchilla in captivity or enclosures.

20 (3) (a) "Fur product" means any article of clothing or covering
21 for any part of the body, or any fashion accessory including, but not
22 limited to, handbags, shoes, slippers, hats, earmuffs, scarves,
23 shawls, gloves, jewelry, keychains, toys or trinkets, and home
24 accessories and decor, that is made in whole or in part of fur.

25 (b) "Fur product" does not include any of the following:

26 (i) An animal skin or part thereof that is to be converted into
27 leather, which in processing will have the hair, fleece, or fur fiber
28 completely removed;

29 (ii) Cowhide with hair attached thereto;

30 (iii) Deerskin, sheepskin, or goatskin with hair attached
31 thereto; and

32 (iv) The pelt or skin of an animal that is preserved through
33 taxidermy.

34 (4) "Person" includes any individual, firm corporation, trust,
35 association, copartnership, society, or other organization of
36 individuals and any other business unit, device, or arrangement.

37 (5) "Produce or manufacture" means to engage in any activity
38 related to processing raw materials to create a fur product for
39 distribution or sale.

1 (6) "Taxidermy" means the practice of preparing, stuffing, and
2 mounting the skin, in lifelike form, of any fish, reptile, amphibian,
3 bird, or mammal.

4 (7) "Ultimate consumer" means a person who buys for their own
5 use, or for the use of another, but not for resale or trade.

6 (8) "Used fur product" means fur in any form that has been worn
7 or used by an ultimate consumer.

8 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 16.72
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a
11 person may neither participate in fur farming, nor produce or
12 manufacture a fur product.

13 (2) The prohibitions in this section do not apply to any of the
14 following:

15 (a) A fur product used for religious purposes;

16 (b) A fur product used for traditional tribal, cultural, or
17 spiritual purposes by a member of a federally recognized Native
18 American tribe;

19 (c) Any activity expressly authorized by federal law; and

20 (d) A product where all of the fur used in its production is from
21 a used fur product.

22 (3) A person who sells or trades any used fur product or fur
23 product described in subsection (2) of this section shall maintain a
24 record of each sale or trade of one of those exempt fur products for
25 at least one year. A violation of this subsection is not subject to a
26 criminal or civil penalty.

27 (4) Except for subsection (3) of this section, a person violating
28 this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each fur product that
29 constitutes a violation must be treated as a separate and distinct
30 offense.

31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 16.72
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1) The fur farm transition grant program is established in the
34 department of agriculture. Subject to the availability of amounts
35 appropriated for this specific purpose and as allowed by law, the
36 purpose of the program is to help existing fur farmers impacted by
37 this act transition out of fur farming. Grant funds may be used only
38 for technical assistance, permitting, new facility construction,

1 equipment, and labor costs associated with transitioning out of fur
2 farming. The department of agriculture may adopt rules to carry out
3 the grant program.

4 (2) This section expires June 30, 2025.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 16.72
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The fur farm transition account is created in the custody of
8 the state treasurer. All receipts, any legislative appropriations,
9 federal funds, private donations, or any other private or public
10 source directed to the fur farm transition grant program must be
11 deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used
12 only for the fur farm transition grant program established in section
13 4 of this act. Only the director of the department of agriculture or
14 the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.
15 The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88
16 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

17 (2) This section expires June 30, 2025.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The following acts or parts of acts are
19 each repealed:

20 (1) RCW 16.72.020 (Quarantine controls) and 1955 c 321 s 3;

21 (2) RCW 16.72.030 (Fox, mink, marten declared personalty) and
22 1955 c 321 s 4; and

23 (3) RCW 16.72.040 (Branding—Recording) and 1955 c 321 s 5.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 3 and 6 of this act
25 take effect January 1, 2023.

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